

court's decision to issue a preliminary injunction concerning certain clarithromycin patents. This court also provisionally found that certain claims in a patent for clarithromycin oxime may be invalid.

A new specification has been provided which inserts matter from the certificate of correction directly into the specification, as required by the examiner on page 2 of her Office Action mailed March 31, 2005.

New claims 6 through 19 have been added. These claims depend on claim 1. It is believed that no additional claim fee is required. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 16-0633 for any additional fees, or if the claim fee amount has been erroneously calculated.

#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims:

6. A process for preparing 6-O-methylerythromycin A comprising:

performing the steps of claim 1; then

eliminating in any desired sequence the R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, and R<sup>3</sup> groups;

wherein the R<sup>1</sup> group is eliminated by homogeneous or

heterogeneous hydrogenolysis;

and wherein the R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> groups are eliminated by treatment with

an acid in an alcohol or with tetrabutyl ammonium fluoride;

and then

deoximating with a deoximating agent.

7. The process of claim 6, wherein the elimination of R<sup>1</sup> is performed by homogeneous hydrogenolysis.

8. The process of claim 6, wherein the elimination of  $R^1$  is performed by heterogeneous hydrogenolysis.

9. The process of claim 6, wherein the elimination of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  is performed by treatment with acid in an alcohol.

10. The process of claim 6, wherein the elimination of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  is performed by treatment with tetrabutyl ammonium fluoride.

11. A process for preparing 6-O-methylerythromycin A comprising:

performing the steps of claim 1; then

eliminating in any desired sequence the  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and  $R^3$  groups;

wherein the  $R^1$  group is eliminated by homogeneous or heterogeneous hydrogenolysis;

and wherein the  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  groups are eliminated by treatment with an acid in an alcohol or with tetrabutyl ammonium fluoride;

and then

deoximating by using sodium hydrogen sulfite, titanium trichloride-ammonium acetate, sodium nitrate-hydrochloric acid, or sodium hydrosulfite.

12. The process of claim 11, wherein the elimination of  $R^1$  is performed by homogeneous hydrogenolysis.

13. The process of claim 11, wherein the elimination of  $R^1$  is performed by heterogeneous hydrogenolysis.

14. The process of claim 11, wherein the elimination of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  is performed by treatment with acid in an alcohol.